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Tax officials meddled, firm says

A consultant says
it was told to alter
its reports on \$60M
computer project

By Kevin Dayton
kdayton@staradvertiser.com

A consultant hired by the state to oversee the \$60 million modernization of the Department of Taxation's computer systems was instructed by state tax officials on which subjects "should and should not" be addressed in its supposedly independent monitoring reports to lawmakers and the public, according to a new report.

The tax department also requested changes in the reports by consultant AdvanTech LLC before they were made public, which the consultant said is "not the norm" in its experience.

Known as an "independent verification and validation" consultant, AdvanTech was hired after an embarrassing series of botched information technology projects in state government that date back to previous administrations.

The idea was the consultant would help ensure the multi-year tax department project known as Tax System Modernization progresses as planned and functions as the contractor promised it would. The tax department hired AdvanTech in 2016 under a \$1.431 million contract, and so far has paid the company \$291,500, according to state procurement records.

House Finance Chairwoman Sylvia Luke said the latest AdvanTech report is "shocking and it's sad" because it reveals tax department administrators in charge of the computer project "have manipulated the contents of this report."

"It completely undermines the credibility of the report and what they have said in the past, and I'm not sure how the consultant can allow this to happen, and I don't know how the Department of (Taxation) personnel can ethically insert themselves to maneuver and manipulate the information in these reports," Luke said.

AdvanTech described the tax project as "the largest

Please see **SYSTEM**, A7

★ ★ ★ JIM NABORS ★ ★ ★
1930-2017



Humble, down to earth despite world-wide fame, he loved Hawaii and its people and I believe he was loved by all who knew him or of him."

Ben Cayetano
Former Hawaii
governor on
Jim Nabors

Hawaii mourns loss of TV icon



- >> Jim Nabors' career highlights include 28 record albums. **A12**
- >> Wayne Harada reflects on Nabors' impact on Hawaii. **A13**
- >> Celebrities and friends express their love for Nabors. **A13**

The actor known for
"Gomer Pyle" died at his
Diamond Head home

By John Berger
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Hawaii friends of beloved entertainer Jim Nabors say he wasn't far removed from the gentle, amiable television character, Gomer Pyle, that first brought him fame in the 1960s.

Nabors, a longtime Honolulu resident, died early Thursday morning at his Diamond Head home after several years of declining health. He was 87.

His husband, Stan Cadwallader, said Nabors was admitted to the emergency room at The Queen's Medical Center on Nov. 22 with a case of shingles. He returned home for Thanksgiving and celebrated the holiday with about 30 guests.

Cadwallader said Nabors went back to the hospital for a series of tests Wednesday and asked his doctors to let him return home. "That's what his wishes were," Cadwallader said. "He wanted to die at home, and he got that wish."

His passing saddened thousands of friends, acquaintances and fans from Hawaii and around the world.

Nabor's low-key nature is what endeared him to many

Please see **NABORS**, A12



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARTHA HERNANDEZ / MHERNANDEZ@STARADVERTISER.COM

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Taxi companies not
pleased with state
allowing Uber, Lyft
to pick up at airport

LOCAL / B1

The Wahine will
lean on McKenna
Granato against
Illinois today

SPORTS / C1



Haters back off! Miranda's in town

Internet sensation and
comedian performs in
Honolulu for the lulz

TGIF



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